SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 132

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 19, 2012

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman CONNIE WAGNER

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman TIMOTHY J. EUSTACE

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Gill, Gordon, Assemblymen Gusciora, Giblin and Assemblywoman Riley

SYNOPSIS

Urges Governor to support expansion of Medicaid program

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/29/2013)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Governor to support the expansion of the New Jersey Medicaid program as provided for under the federal "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act."

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- 5 WHEREAS, The federal "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" 6 (ACA), Pub.L.111-148, enacted into law on March 23, 2010, and 7 amended by the federal "Health Care and Education Affordability 8 Reconciliation Act of 2010," Pub.L.111-152, enacted into law on 9 March 30, 2010, provides states with the opportunity, effective 10 January 1, 2014, to increase their Medicaid income eligibility limit 11 to 133 percent of the federal poverty level for all non-elderly adult 12 citizens and lawful residents, or 138 percent of the federal poverty level when allowing for the five percent income disregard in 13 14 determining Medicaid eligibility for non-elderly persons established 15 by the ACA; and
- WHEREAS, The ACA provides an enhanced federal match for those states that participate in the Medicaid expansion, under which the federal match for State funds expended on newly eligible persons under the Medicaid expansion will be 100 percent from 2014 through 2016 and phase down to 95 percent in 2017, 94 percent in 2018, 93 percent in 2019, and 90 percent in 2020 and subsequent years; and
- 23 WHEREAS, According to an August 2011 report by the Rutgers Center 24 for State Health Policy, if New Jersey were to increase its Medicaid 25 income eligibility limit to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, 26 Medicaid would expand from covering 13.6 percent to 16.7 percent 27 of the non-elderly population in the State, and this would increase 28 the Medicaid-eligible population in New Jersey by approximately 29 234,000 persons, of whom some 132,000 would be non-parent 30 adults and some 102,000 would be children under 19 years of age; 31 and
- WHEREAS, A study published in The New England Journal of Medicine in July, 2012 concluded that state Medicaid expansions to cover low-income adults were significantly associated with reduced mortality, improved coverage, access to care, and self-reported health; and
- 37 WHEREAS, This study found a 6.1 percent reduction in mortality among low-income adults between 20 and 64 years of age in three 38 39 states that substantially expanded adult Medicaid eligibility since 40 2000 (Maine, New York, and Arizona), compared with similar 41 adults in four neighboring states that did not do so (New 42 Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Nevada, and New Mexico), with the 43 decline in mortality especially pronounced among older individuals, 44 minorities, and residents of the poorest counties; and
- WHEREAS, An increase in the Medicaid income eligibility limit in
 New Jersey to the maximum level permitted under the ACA would
 enable this State to qualify for the enhanced federal match provided
 for under the ACA Medicaid expansion; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Jersey's participation in the ACA Medicaid 2 expansion would provide this State with the opportunity to reduce 3 the amount of uncompensated care provided by hospitals for uninsured patients and thereby lessen the amount expended by the 4 5 State on charity care subsidy payments to hospitals; and 6 WHEREAS, New Jersey's participation in the ACA Medicaid 7 expansion would ensure that this State receives the federal 8 Medicaid funds to which it is entitled under the ACA, so that its 9 citizens, as federal income taxpayers, would not be simply paying 10 to meet the Medicaid expansion costs incurred by the federal 11 government in other states; and 12 WHEREAS, New Jersey's participation in the ACA Medicaid expansion would ensure that health care coverage is provided for 13 14 New Jersey citizens with the lowest incomes who are newly eligible 15 for coverage under the ACA, at the same time as coverage is being 16 provided under the ACA for New Jersey citizens with higher 17 incomes, from 133 percent to 400 percent of the federal poverty

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General Assembly concurring):

through a health insurance exchange; now, therefore,

level, who qualify for federal subsidies to purchase coverage

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1. This Legislature urges the Governor to support the expansion of the New Jersey Medicaid program as provided for under the federal "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," Pub.L.111-148, as amended by the "Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010," Pub.L.111-152.

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Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the Governor.

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STATEMENT

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This concurrent resolution urges the Governor to support the expansion of the New Jersey Medicaid program as provided for under the federal "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," Pub.L.111-148, as amended by the "Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010," Pub.L.111-152.